

Drinking water sanctions are imposed by the Energy and Environment Cabinet (EEC), through the Division of Water (DOW), when a public water system cannot supply consistent water service in compliance with state drinking water regulations. In order to protect the public health, the division may refuse to approve plans and specifications for system modifications or extensions of service to one or more customers.

The Drinking Water Section determines a utility's ability to meet current and future water demands with the use of monthly operating reports, intergovernmental project reviews, county water supply plans, sanitary surveys and inspections. Situations such as drought, hydraulic problems or failure to meet treatment standards may affect the system's ability to provide an adequate supply. In such cases, a system must not produce water to satisfy demands that are in excess of the plant's operational design capacity.

A waterline extension sanction is normally issued when a plant reaches a production rate that is 85 percent of its rated annual average capacity. This sanction prohibits any waterline extensions that increase the demand on water supply. It does not prohibit the connection of customers to existing waterlines.

A tap-on sanction is issued when a plant produces water at 95 percent of its average annual operational design capacity. This sanction prohibits the connection of any new customers to the water system.

If sanctions are imposed, an agreed order states the reasons for the sanction and what actions must be taken to have it lifted. The Drinking Water Section is available to provide the system with technical assistance as it plans and performs remedial actions.

Water systems under standard drinking water sanctions will be given instructions regarding projects or situations that would be considered as exceptions to the sanction.

For sanctions to be lifted, identified systems must provide a written request with satisfactory documentation that the problems have been resolved. The EEC may grant partial or complete lifting of the sanction or deny the request.